

ENSEMBLE

THE VOICE OF THE CHORAL ART FORM IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

October 2015, Volumn 1, Issue 28

SARASOTA CHORAL FESTIVAL

NEW VOICES IN CHORAL MUSIC



This is your chance to perform works by renowned American Composer and arranger René Clausen, a favorite of choral ensembles, and composer of over 100 commissioned compositions, including one of the festival pieces commissioned by Key Chorale. "Life and Breath: Choral Works by René Clausen" recorded by the Kansas City Chorale, won two Grammy Awards in 2013. His compelling cantata A New Creation was first recorded in 1990 by the Dale Warland Singers, and has become a staple in many chorale repertoires.

Festival Schedule:

Rehearsal 1: October 6, 7PM – 9:30 PM

Continued Page 4, Festival

Last year 150 voices participated in the inaugural Sarasota Choral Festival. It is an opportunity for singers who do not have the time to participate in a season of choral rehearsals and concerts, for choral groups that want the opportunity to sing with a larger vocal ensemble, and for those who do not like to audition, to join with other choral groups and the 100+ voices of Key Chorale

There is only one requirement....you must love to sing! The festival is open to all singers, high school age and older. Choirs and choral groups are especially encouraged to join too. All you need to do is register! The registration fee is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. The fee includes music and a pizza party on Friday, October 9.

Inside this Issue	Page
Seraphic Fire	2
Sarasota Choral Society	3
Missing Millennials -Dr Trent Brown	4
Spotlight - Ginny Goodman- The Bach Ensemble	4
Sarasota Opera	5
The Bach Ensemble -William Noll	5

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***Schubert: Mass in G* is made possible through a generous gift by Edmundo Pérez-de Cobos in memory of Fred J. Battaglia.**

PROGRAM I

SCHUBERT: *MASS IN G*

Seraphic Fire opens its 14th Season with a combination of contemporary and canon: Franz Schubert's *Mass in G Major* and a newly-commissioned work by young American composer Jake Runestad. Featuring the lauded New York-based period instrument ensemble, The Sebastians, this concert of old and new showcases the spectacular vocal brilliance of Seraphic Fire – a perfect start to an incredible season.

October 15, 2015 7:30pm Moorings Presbyterian

791 Harbour Dr, Naples, FL 34103

The commissioning of Jake Runestad's work by Seraphic Fire was made possible by the support of the Ann Stookey Fund for New Music.

For tickets or information, call 1-888-673-7735 or visit www.SeraphicFire.org

Sarasota Choral Society Messiah rehearsals begin

The Sarasota Choral Society (select members of which will also be performing in New York City's Carnegie Hall over the Thanksgiving weekend) will begin rehearsals for the 71st annual production of the Christmas portion of G. F. Handel's *Messiah: A Sacred Oratorio*, on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7:30 PM and continue each Tuesday until the performance on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Membership is open to anyone interested in singing, auditions are not required. Annual dues are \$25/person and waived for full-time students. For advance registration or more information go to www.sarasotachoralsociety.org.

Rehearsals and one performance will be at Church of the Palms Presbyterian Church, 3224 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, with the performance at 4:00 PM on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Led by Artistic Director Geneviève Beauchamp, the production will include a chamber orchestra made up of some of the principal players from the Sarasota Orchestra, organ accompaniment by Dr. Jonathan Spivey, four world-class soloists, the Sarasota Choral Society chorus of 100+ voices, and a prelude by Sarasota Young Voices. General admission tickets will be available beginning in October at \$20/person. For more details and where to buy tickets go to website at: www.sarasotachoralsociety.org.



Seraphic Fire will present Schubert Mass in G at Moorings Presbyterian October 15



Now in their 14th season performing throughout the South Florida region and on national tours, Seraphic Fire is regarded as one of the preeminent choral orchestral chamber ensembles in the United States. Led by Founder and Artistic Director Patrick Dupré Quigley, Seraphic Fire brings top ensemble singers and instrumentalists from around the country to perform repertoire ranging from Gregorian chant and baroque masterpieces, to Mahler and newly commissioned works by this country's leading composers. Two of the ensemble's recordings, Brahms: *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and *A Seraphic Fire Christmas*, were nominated for 2012 GRAMMY® awards, making Seraphic Fire the only choral ensemble in North or South America to be nominated that year, and the only classical ensemble in the world to be nominated for two separate projects.

With the start of its 2015-2016 season, Seraphic Fire brings its "crystalline artistry" (Gramophone) into the national spotlight with tours in New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and Naples, Florida. The organization also continues a partnership with the New York-based instrumental ensemble, The Sebastians, who bring their baroque and classical genre expertise, as well as their immaculate execution, to make Seraphic Fire performances even more dynamic, cohesive, and impressive.

See Page 2 for October 15 concert details

Spotlight

Ginny Goodman

President

The Bach Ensemble



Her approach can only be described as enthusiastic. When asked to describe herself she says, "My performance will not only exceed your expectations. The word "No" doesn't exist in my vocabulary. I'm a people person and enjoy working with the office staff so that clients are very satisfied with the office services. Being

a team player comes naturally to me. I enjoy being part of a goal-oriented, client focused office or organization.."

Her background is a testament to the truism of those words and her enthusiasm. Founding member/vocalist (14 years) of The Bach Ensemble, re-elected to board of directors June 2013; Elected president, June 2014. Soprano Vocalist with The Naples Philharmonic Chorus, Worked with conductors such as Erich Kunzel, Christopher Seamans, Steve Reineke, Keith Lockhart, and many others. Soprano Vocalist with Nova University Community Singers, Ft. Lauderdale, On Board of Directors for 15 years. Founding President, 1994, Ft. Myers/Naples Chapter of The National Association of Women Business Owners.

The Bach Ensemble has been challenged the past three years with turnover in artistic directors since the resignation of its long time director, Dr. Ron Doiron, so Goodman's background lends itself to maintaining organizational stability. William Noll was recently appointed artistic director(see article, Page 5).

The untapped Musical Millennials

By Dr. Trent Brown



It often surprises me when I discover former students that do not continue singing in an ensemble after graduation. I know other university colleagues that have the same phenomenon. Students that served as their university choir's section leaders, or as their high school choir's elected officers, or as the resident choir geeks frequently quit singing once college ends. These skilled musicians live untapped by community and church choirs in the cities where they reside. Here are the usual reasons I hear that they do not sing:

1. "I do not have the time": Well, who does? In life we make priorities for the important things. So I think this statement is less about not having and time and more about being frustrated with long and drawn out rehearsals. The Millennial Generation likes push-button access. (Is there an App for learning that music?) Efficiency is important and organizations should be aware of how fast Millennials expect their rehearsals and experiences to be paced.

2. "I have not found the right group": A lot of things play into this. One of the biggest complaints I hear is that they cannot recapture the musical rewards of their college group. This falls on community choirs making silly mistakes in programming. Too often organizations think that sprinkling seasons with "popular music" (whatever that means) will bring young people to them in droves. Millennials may like pop music on their iPod, but they love performing choral music of the highest artistic caliber. Instead of a medley of Lion King try programming Mozart Requiem. They want quality, not cheese.

3. "I did not feel welcome": An ensemble that grows in an echo chamber is not poised to invite new members. Over time an unwelcoming approach to new ideas and possibilities creates generational ghettos. When it is too late, then the ensemble finally starts asking, "how do we attract new, young singers?" To make the problem worse, organizations generate their conclusions in their echo chambers without even asking the people (Millennials) they want to attract what it would take to have them sing! I find my former students are more likely to participate in ensembles that

Auditions for The Opera
Naples Chorus
Adults of all ages and teenagers

October 5, 2015

Auditions will be held at The Wang Opera Center, 2408 Linwood Ave. Naples. Singers may opt to participate in one or multiple productions. Prior experience in opera is not necessary. Paid positions are available. For more information or to schedule an audition, contact Robin Frank at: rfrank@operanaples.org or 239-963-9050.

Rehearsal and performance schedule is as follows:

Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss
(performed in English)

Select Saturdays October 24-December 12, 2015 2:00-4:00pm

Select Mondays October 26-December 14, 2015 7:00-9:30pm

Additional rehearsals TBD December 15-21, 2015

Performance December 22, 2015 at Artis-Naples

La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi
(performed in Italian)

Select Saturdays January 23 – March 5, 2016 2:00-4:30pm

Select Mondays January 25 - February 29, 2016 7:00-9:30pm

Additional rehearsals TBD March 6-17, 2016

Performances March 18 and 20, 2016 at Ritz Carlton Tiburon.

The 2014/2015 season marked the tenth anniversary of Opera Naples, but it was a milestone year for another reason. It marked the first season led by the brilliant Artistic Director Ramon Tebar, the internationally renowned Spanish conductor widely recognized for his musical versatility, compelling interpretations and orchestra building skills.

Festival, Continued from page 1

Rehearsal 2: October 9, 7PM – 9:30 PM

Rehearsal 3: October 10, 10 AM – 1:00 PM

Concert, October 10, 7:00 PM

Joseph Caulkins, Artistic Director

For information and registration go to www.keychorale.org

Millennials, Continued Page 5

Sarasota Opera schedules seven performances of La Boheme



With 1830s Paris as the backdrop, love flourishes, withers and dies in this melodious and heart-wrenching favorite. Puccini's most beloved opera will have you relive Mimi and Rodolfo's first encounter, walk through Paris' Latin Quarter with the two lovers, and dine at Café Momus on Christmas Eve. You'll laugh at the four friends' jokes and pranks, and feel the poet's broken heart as he realizes his lover is fatally ill.

Mimi: Jessica Rose Cambio; Musetta: Angela Mortellaro; Rodolfo: Martín Nusspaumer; Marcello: Craig Irvin; Schaunard: Gideon Dabi; Colline: Colin Ramsey



Victor DeRenzi
Conductor

Fri 10/30/15 7:30PM	Sarasota Opera House	Sun 11/1/15 1:30PM	Sarasota Opera House
Wed 11/4/15 7:30PM	Sarasota Opera House	Tue 11/10/15 7:30PM	Sarasota Opera House
Thu 11/12/15 7:30PM	Sarasota Opera House	Sun 11/15/15 1:30PM	Sarasota Opera House
Tue 11/17/15 7:30PM	Sarasota Opera House		

The Bach Ensemble appoints Noll



William Noll

The Bach Ensemble Founder, Dr. Vito Silvestri announces that Maestro William Noll will be the new Music Director and Conductor of the organization as of September 1, 2015.

Conductor/Pianist William Noll is a performance veteran of major concert halls on four continents. From Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York to festivals and tours in Italy, Belgium, Costa Rica, Russia, and China, Mr. Noll has established excellence in performance standards for over four decades. He continues to serve as Artistic Director for

both Classic Chamber Concerts and ArtsNaples World Festival.

Maestro Noll is enthusiastic and excited on several counts. "I am thrilled to be performing music of the Baroque in the Bower Chapel at Moorings Park. Bower Chapel is to Baroque Music as the sunset is to the Gulf. Noll has programmed two concerts for 2016 at the Bower Chapel. The Bach Ensemble will be dedicated to the Art of the Baroque through both vocal and instrumental compositions. This allows me to awaken my choral abilities which have been dormant for about two decades."

Maestro Noll has recorded choral music on the Newport, Sony and Time-Life labels. Early in his career he was Robert Shaw's assistant with the Atlanta Symphony for six seasons. Mr. Shaw stated regarding his young assistant, "Even with some forty years' choral experience, I have never met anyone to match his understanding of choral disciplines and technics."

Millennials, Continued from Page 4

take any interest in who these young people are and what they have to offer.

4. I do not have the time: Yes, I am bringing this back. The days of a single-income earner are long gone. Many families have both parents working one or two jobs. Committing to an entire season may be completely impossible. Perhaps allowing project-based membership allows these people to remain engaged during the time when building a professional profile or raising young children are the more immediate concerns of the singer. From an organization's standpoint this is not ideal because singers may be involved in only one of four concerts. In the long-term, however, it allows these singers to keep community singing as a part of their lives, and then immerse more fully as their lives change.

These are not insurmountable obstacles. The first thing to do is to get to know today's recent college graduate. They have huge hearts, and are convinced they can

change the world. Is your choir doing something besides making music? Engage them in how your group makes the community better, and not just through music. What does your choir provide to the community that makes this a great place to live? Why is participation helping the community, not just the livelihood of the choir? Answer this, and I think you will find Millennials calling to audition.

Dr. Brown is Artistic Director of the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida, Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University. He is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Arizona where he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting and served as a faculty member after completion of his degree. He earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and his Master of Music at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

